In the Claims

1-7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon one or more computer programs that, when executed by one or more computers, causes the one or more computers to:

populate a database with data to include a date when each product will be available for shipment for a plurality of products;

periodically query the database to obtain the date for each product while ignoring those products that do not have a valid shipment date;

count a number of days for each product between a current date and the date when the product will be ready for shipment to create a number of days before each product is available;

store the number of days before each product is available in temporary tables;

access the temporary tables to display the number of days before each product is available; and

update the temporary tables periodically.

9. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 8 where the computer program further causes the one or more computers to:

apply the number of days before the product is available to a calendar starting from the current date; and

display a date when the product will be available.

10. (Previously Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 8 where the computer program further causes the one or more computers to:

populate the database with data to include number of orders, a product category for each order, and sales revenue for each order;

add the number of orders for each product category together to create a sum of the number of orders for each product category;

add the sales revenue for the number of orders in each product category together to create a sum of the total revenue for each product category; and

display the sum of the number of orders for each product category and the sum of the total revenue for each product category.

11. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 8 where the computer program further causes the one or more computers to:

create a plurality of categories for display, wherein determination of a category depends on the number of days before the product is available.

12. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 11 wherein the plurality of categories includes a first category for orders including orders where the number of days before the product is available is greater than a user-defined number, and a second category for orders including orders where the number of days before the product is available is less than a user-defined number, wherein the computer program further causes the one or more computers to:

display a first user-defined message for each order in the first category; and

display a second user-defined message for each order in the second category.

13. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 12 wherein the first user-defined message is "call for availability" and the second user-defined message is "ready for immediate shipment."

14. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 11 wherein the plurality of categories includes a category for orders where the number of days before the product is available is within a user-defined range of values, wherein the computer program further causes the one or more computers to:

display a user-defined message for each order within the category.

15. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 8 wherein the periodic query of the database is performed at least every time a request for information is made.

16. (Previously Amended) A computer data signal representing a sequence of instructions that, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to:

maintain a database containing at least a date when each product will be ready for shipment,

periodically obtain from the database the date when each product will be ready for shipment while ignoring an entry if such date does not exist;

count a number of days between today and the date each product will be ready for shipment to create a number of days before each product is available;

store the number of days before each product is available in temporary tables;

display the corresponding date when the product will be available; and

update the temporary tables to maintain a listing of the number of days before each product is available.

17. (Original) The computer data signal of claim 16 further causing the one or more processors to:

apply the number of days before the product is available to a calendar starting from the current date; and

display the number of days before the product is available.

18. (Original) The computer data signal of claim 16 further causing the one or more processors to:

display a first user-defined message if the number of days before the product is available is greater than a user-defined number; and

display a second user-defined message if the number of days before the product is available is less than a user-defined number.

19. (Original) The computer data signal of claim 16 wherein the one or more processors periodically obtains data every 0 to 60 seconds.

20. (Original) The computer data signal of claim 16 wherein the data is obtained at intervals greater than once a minute.

21. (Original) The computer data signal of claim 16 wherein the signal obtains data every time information is requested.

22-25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously Added) A method for displaying real-time status of product availability comprising:

automatically querying a database at a regular time interval for a date when each product will be ready for shipment for a plurality of products, and if the date does not exist, skipping that product, otherwise;

for each product, counting a number of days between a current date and the date when each product will be ready for shipment to create a number of days before each product is available;

storing the number of days before each product will be available in temporary tables;

accessing the temporary tables to display when each product is available for shipment; and

updating the temporary tables at the regular time interval.

27. (Previously Added) The method of claim 26 wherein the temporary tables are updated following a change to the database

28. (Previously Added) The method of claim 26 further comprising automatically querying the database for data concerning orders, inventory and revenue.

29. (Previously Added) The method of claim 26 wherein the regular time interval can be adjusted.

30. (Previously Added) A system for displaying real-time product information comprising:

a database containing data related to a plurality of product categories;

a processing system capable of automatically accessing the data contained in the database at regular time intervals and performing calculations using the data wherein the data pertains to one of product availability, product shipment, and revenue;

a temporary table capable of storing the results of calculations performed by the processing system; and

means for displaying the results stored in the temporary table for product management.

31. (Previously Added) The system of claim 30 wherein at least one of the database categories includes when a product will be ready for shipment and wherein the calculations comprise counting a number of days between a current date and a date when a product will be ready for shipment to create a number of days before the product is available.

32. (Previously Added) The system of claim 30 wherein the plurality of categories includes at least one of requested shipping dates, actual shipping dates, and promised shipping dates.

33. (Previously Added) The system of claim 30 wherein the displaying step includes displaying the number of days until the product is available for shipment.

34. (Previously Added) The system of claim 30 wherein the means of displaying comprises an Intranet server for providing the results to internal users.

35. (Previously Added) The system of claim 30 wherein the means of displaying comprises an Internet server for providing the results to customers and potential customers.